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*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*

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17 December 1980

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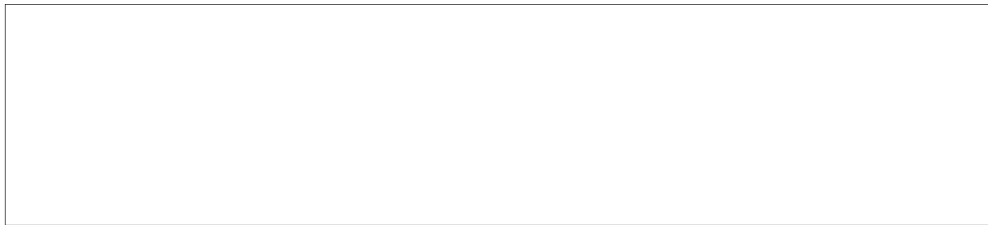
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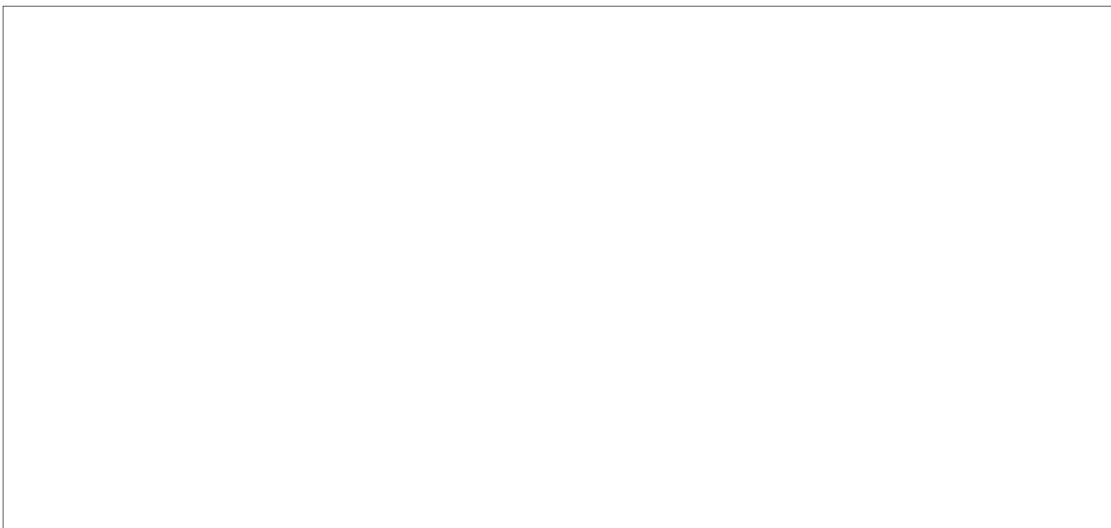
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17 December 1980.

Terrorist Incident in Costa Rica

3.5(c) The transmitting station of Radio Noticias del Continente, a shortwave radio station located near San Jose, Costa Rica, which is financed by extreme leftist Argentines of the Montoneros movement and used as a propaganda outlet, was attacked during the early morning hours of 14 December by rightist Nicaraguan terrorists. Station broadcasts have recently been focusing on the situation in El Salvador. Nine men under the command of a former Nicaraguan National Guardsman launched their attack by exploding a bomb in front of the transmitting tower to divert the attention of the well-armed guards at the station and then storming the rear of the building. The defenders were prepared and drove them off in a 20-minute firefight. In their flight they abandoned their weapons and one wounded terrorist.

Radio Noticias del Continente has for many months broadcast highly critical commentary against the military governments in the southern cone countries of Latin America. This attack marks an escalation of violence, following attacks on 1 January and 7 November 1980, presumably by other rightwing terrorists, with negligible damage resulting. Costa Rica, because of its policy of few travel barriers, has become host to large numbers of foreign extremists of all stripes. Their presence has led to a growing number of terrorist incidents and increased violence.

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